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Ex-President Roosevelt's Services to the Cause of World Peace.

The book of the services to the cause of world peace of Theodore Roosevelt, as President of the United States, is now closed. What has the record been?

There are two radically opposite views on the subject. Not a few hold that what he has done has counted for nothing in the real progress of the principles of peace, but that the spirit of his Administration from first to last has gone in the direction of the militarization of the nation, and that certain official acts of his, which have resulted in special accomplishments in the direction of peace, have been performed, not at all from love of peace, but either under the compulsion of public opinion or for spectacular effects. The other view is that Mr. Roosevelt has been the one peacemaker of the world; that he has done more for the advancement of the cause than any other living man, possibly than all other living men; that his passion for a big navy has been at bottom only a passion for peace; and that his services in this direction will be recognized and honored when the peace societies, the peace congresses, etc., have all been forgotten.

It is needless to say that we agree with neither of

these views. They are both extravagant. The fact, however, that they exist in such a pronounced form is evidence that there was ground in Mr. Roosevelt's general attitude and his official acts for both of them.

The important services to the cause of peace which Mr. Roosevelt, either directly or through Mr. Hay and Mr. Root, rendered during the seven years of his Presidency may be set down as follows: The securing of the reference to arbitration of the claims of various countries against Venezuela, when the three European powers were blockading the Venezuelan ports and attempting to collect by force sundry unverified claims of certain of their citizens; the bringing of the Hague Court into operation, with the coöperation of Mexico, by the reference to it of the Pious Fund dispute, when it was understood that the newly established tribunal was being boycotted by the European powers; the initiation, at the request of the Interparliamentary Union, of the second Hague Conference, and the prominent participation of our government in the Conference; the bringing together of Russia and Japan for the ending of the great struggle between them; the exercising of considerable influence on France and Germany in bringing about the settlement of their Moroccan difficulty through the Algecirias Conference; the friendly visit of Secretary Root to the South American capitals; the initiation of the Central American Conference in Washington, through which the Central American International Court of Justice was established; the effecting of the agreement with Japan, setting forth the peaceful intentions and policies of the two governments on the Pacific and in the Far East; the remission to China of a portion of the Boxer indemnity; the earnest efforts made by him to control and suppress the anti-Japanese feelings on the Pacific coast; the arrangement for reference to the Hague Court of the Newfoundland fisheries dispute; and the conclusion within the past year of no less than twenty-three treaties of obligatory arbitration with other powers.

No other Administration in the history of the country has had to its credit so many important practical contributions to the cause of international friendship and peace as that just closed. Some of these must, of course, be credited not primarily to Mr. Roosevelt, but to the two great Secretaries of State on whose initiative they were done and by whom they were carried out. But they all had the approval of the President and could not have been carried out without his hearty coöperation. Their credit, therefore,